IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or added terms are shown with underscoring. Also add new claims 15-17.

1.　　(Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle capable of detecting objects present around said vehicle based on an image captured by at least one infrared camera member provided with said vehicle, said device comprising:

a pedestrian's head area calculating unit which establishes an area which is supposed to correspond to a head of a pedestrian as a reference area;

a pedestrian's over-shoulder area calculating unit which establishes two object areas which are supposed to correspond to over-shoulder areas of said pedestrian on both sides of said reference area; and

a pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit which acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image according to a feature in a luminance in said reference area and [[a]] another feature in a luminance in said object areas.

2.　　(Original) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 1 wherein said object areas are offset upwardly from said reference area.

3.　　(Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 1 further comprising a pedestrian's shoulder area calculating unit which establishes other object areas for acknowledging said pedestrian's arms and shoulders downwardly to said object areas, respectively, wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian in said captured image according to [[a]] the other feature in a luminance in said object areas and another feature in a luminance in said other object areas.

4.　　(Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle capable of detecting objects present around said vehicle by extracting an object based on an image captured by at

2

least one infrared camera member provided with said vehicle so as to acknowledge the object as a pedestrian, said device comprising:

a pedestrian's head area calculating unit which establishes an area which is supposed to correspond to a head of said pedestrian as a reference area;

a pedestrian's over-shoulder area calculating unit which establishes two object areas which are supposed to correspond to over-shoulder areas of said pedestrian on both sides of said reference area;

a pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit which acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image according to a feature in a luminance in said reference area and [[a]] another feature in a luminance in said object areas, and

a display device which displays an object which is acknowledged as a pedestrian by the pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit distinguishably from an object which is not acknowledged as a pedestrian.

5.   (Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle capable of detecting objects present around said vehicle by extracting an object based on an image captured by at least one infrared camera member provided with said vehicle so as to acknowledge the object as a pedestrian, said device comprising:

a pedestrian's head area calculating unit which establishes an area which is supposed to correspond to a head of said pedestrian as a reference area;

a pedestrian's over-shoulder area calculating unit which establishes two object areas which are supposed to correspond to over-shoulder areas of said pedestrian on both sides of said reference area;

a pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit which acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image according to a feature in a luminance in said reference area and [[a]] another feature in a luminance in said object areas,

an alarm determination device which determines whether or not an alarm should be generated based on the object which is acknowledged as a pedestrian by the pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit, and

a display device which displays an object which is acknowledged as a pedestrian by the

3

pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit distinguishably from an object which is not acknowledged as a pedestrian.

6. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 4 wherein the object areas are offset upwardly relative to the reference area.

7. (Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 4 further comprising a pedestrian's shoulder area calculating unit which establishes other object areas for acknowledging said pedestrian's arms and shoulders downwardly to said object areas, respectively, wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian in said captured image according to [[a]] the other feature in a luminance in said object areas and another feature in a luminance in said other object areas.

8. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 4 wherein said display device displays the object, which is acknowledged as a pedestrian by the pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit, distinguishably in an emphasized manner.

9. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 3 wherein said feature in said luminance is specified according to at least one of an average luminance, a luminance contrast, and a relativity error value between said object areas and said other object areas.

10. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle, according to Claim 5, wherein the object areas are offset upwardly relative to the reference area.

11. (Currently amended) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 5 further comprising a pedestrian's shoulder area calculating unit which establishes other object areas for acknowledging said pedestrian's arms and shoulders downwardly to said object areas, respectively, wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian in said captured image according to [[a]] the other feature in a luminance in said object areas and

4

another feature in a luminance in said other object areas.

12. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 5 wherein said display device displays the object, which is acknowledged as a pedestrian by the pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit, distinguishably in an emphasized manner.

13. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 7 wherein said feature in said luminance is specified according to at least one of an average luminance, a luminance contrast, and a relativity error value between said object areas and said other object areas.

14. (Previously presented) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 11 wherein said feature in said luminance is specified according to at least one of an average luminance, a luminance contrast, and a relativity error value between said object areas and said other object areas.

15. (New) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 1 wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image based on contrast of the feature in the luminance in said reference area and the other feature in the luminance in said object areas.

16. (New) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 4 wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image based on contrast of the feature in the luminance in said reference area and the other feature in the luminance in said object areas.

17. (New) A device for monitoring around a vehicle according to Claim 5 wherein said pedestrian's shape acknowledging unit acknowledges said pedestrian who is in said captured image based on contrast of the feature in the luminance in said reference area and the other feature in the luminance in said object areas.